

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being redundant. Applicant has deleted this Claim without prejudice to allow this application to be placed in a condition for allowance without any further delay. Claim 23 is now dependent on Claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 8, 10, 14, 16, 19, 20 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Lyjak et al (US 4,765,286). Claims 9, 11-13, 15 and 17 have been objected to as being dependent upon rejected base Claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

In light of the Examiner's suggestions Claim 8 has been amended and combined with Claim 9 and Claim 14 has been amended and combined with Claim 15. Claims 11 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations from their previous base Claims 8 and 14 respectively. Claim 15 has been deleted. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended in accordance with the amendment to their base Claim 8.

Therefore, Claims 8, 14 and the associated dependent Claims 9-13, 16-17, 19-20, 22, 26 and 28 are believed allowable in light of Lyjak et al. In addition, Applicants make no concession with regard to the Examiner's presumption of admitted prior art. Applicants have responded appropriately to the rejections provided by the Examiner.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection and/or non-compliance have been properly traversed, accommodated or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and that they withdraw them.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. Bryan McPherson', is written over a horizontal line.

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